

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lynch, please.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, I rise to support the amendment. Before all of this happened the county boards had established responsibilities that cost money. Because they did that it is going to take about the same amount of money to continue to carry out those responsibilities. Senator Vickers is right when he says this would make it look like the Legislature was responsible. We are. We're the ones that caused all this to happen. It shouldn't really bother us that back home we would then mandate an election to make sure that those already predetermined costs and established responsibilities that can continue at the local county level and that the blame or the responsibility or the credit be placed where it should be. Senator Johnson mentioned that we should not mandate that they have to have an election. Well, the Legislature is mandating that we have to follow a plan that the Legislature is establishing as in regard to the valuation for farmland for tax purposes. We also mandated a limit on spending. The Legislature caused the problem. I think the Legislature should take the credit and responsibility for it and I think this amendment makes a lot of sense and I think makes it possible at the county level to carry out this responsibility as it should without any fun and games taking the Legislature or anyone else off the hook. I urge the support of this amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers, please.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I just had to rise again. I object strenuously to any indication that if there is a problem developed because of that fifty cent limitation it's totally our fault. If that's what we're going to put in the statutes, then I'm going to go up there, if this is adopted, and amend it to say that it is partly the federal government's fault as well because the simple fact of the matter is under any determination we might want to use as far as valuing agricultural property is concerned, it's dropping and it's continuing to drop. The bottom has not been reached yet or at least it certainly doesn't appear to me that it is. And I don't think it would have made a bit of difference what we might have done. We could have continued to use any old manual, it seems to me, and it would still have caused some counties to be in some problems. So I just think that for us to say that we're the